

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 003024

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG FROM UNA

FOL RPT PRETORIA 0087 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO LILONGWE,
LONDON, LUSAKA, GABORONE DTD 05 JAN 78

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 00
87

EXDIS

FOR AF-DICK MOOSE FROM LOW

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PDEV, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: POSTURE TOWARD SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA

REF: PRETORIA 063

1. I HAVE REVIEWED RECENT TRAFFIC IN LILONGWE AND HERE IN
PRETORIA AND YESTERDAY DISCUSSED SITHOLE MEETING WITH BOB
STEVENSON, BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER MICHAEL SCOTT AND
THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES IN BLANTYRE. AS YOU
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ARE PROBABLY AWARE THE UK REP THERE (MARSTON) HAS LONG HAD
CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH SITHOLE AND IS IN VERY FREQUENT
CONTACT WITH HIM. AS RESULT OF THESE CONVERSATIONS I HAVE
SOME CONCERN THAT WE ARE NOT GETTING ACROSS CLEARLY AND FORCEFULLY
OU MESSAGE TO SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA.

2. MY FIRST CONCERN RELATES TO TH SECRECY OF THE MEETING IN

BLANTYRE. IF IT SHOULD BECOME PUBLIC, I BELIEVE ITS PURPOSE AND SUBSTANCE COULD BE DISTORTED FOR VARIOUS REASONS BY VARIOUS PARTIES. IT SEEMS TO ME THEREFORE THAT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WE SHOULD INFORM THE FRONT LINE AND PATRIOTIC FRONT OF THE EXISTENCE OF THESE CONTACTS. FOR THESE REASONS I HOPE THE DEPT WILL APPROVE OUR MENTIONING THEM IN MAPUTO AS REQUESTED IN MY PREVIOUS MESSAGE (REFTEL). WE MAY WISH TO CONSIDER AT SOME LATER DATE MAKING A MATTER-OF-FACT PUBLIC REFERENCE TO OUR CONTINUING CONTACTS WITH THE TWO LEADERS AND THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THESE CONTACTS ARE BEING MAINTAINED.

3. MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE ARE NEGOTIATING WITH SMITH BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT CERTAIN THAT THEY CAN COME TO POWER UNDER OUR PROPOSALS. THEY ARE CONCERNED PARTLY BECAUSE THEY THINK WE MAY BE PARTIAL TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND PARTLY BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT CERTAIN WE INTEND TO PURSUE OUR PROPOSALS. THE MOST IMPORTANT MESSAGE THEREFORE WE SHOULD IMPART TO THEM IS OUR FIRM INTENTION TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO FIND AGREEMENT UNDER OUR PROPOSAL. THIS WILL STRENGTHEN THEIR HAND IN THEIR NEGOTIATIONS WITH SMITH SO THAT IF AGREEMENT IS ACHIEVED IN SALISBURY IT WILL BE AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO OUR PROPOSAL. THIS IN TURN COULD PROVIDE A BASIS FOR JOINING THE TWO PROPOSALS LATER IN ORDER TO BRING IN THE PATRIOTIC FRONT.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS SOME POSSIBILITY
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THAT MUZOREWA WILL GO TO BLANTYRE IN THE NEXT WEEK. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT CARVER MAY BE CONSIDERING A TRIP TO GABORONE WHICH WE ASSUME WOULD BE IN CONNECTION WITH THE MEETING WITH MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE. IN EITHER CASE WE ASSUME THERE WILL BE AN OCCASION FOR FURTHER CONTACT WITH MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

5. ON SUCH AN OCCASION BILL BOWDLER AND I BELIEVE WE SHOULD GO BEYOND WHAT WE SAID TO SITHOLE IN BLANTYRE ABOUT URGING PARTICIPATION BY THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO INDICATE THAT OUR PROPOSAL IS STILL ALIVE AND WELL AND BEING VIGOROUSLY PURSUED. TO DO SO WE SHOULD OUTLINE TO THE INTERNAL NATIONALISTS THE NEXT STEPS WE HAVE IN MIND. JUST AS WE SHOULD KEEP THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AWARE IN GENERAL OF OUR CONTACTS WITH SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA AND THE PROGRESS OF THE SALISBURY TALKS, WE SHOULD ALSO INFORM MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE OF OUR TALKS IN MAPUTO AND PROPOSED NEXT STEPS IN CARRYING OUT THE PROPOSAL, INCLUDING OUR INVITATION TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. (I CANNOT HELP BUT THINK IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT WE DID NOT MENTION TO SITHOLE THE CARVER VISIT TO MAPUTO WHICH WAS PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED THE EVENING OF OUR MEETING WITH HIM IN BLANTYRE.)

6. AT THE SAME TIME WE SHOULD TAKE THE OCCASION OF THE MEETING TO RE-EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO ACHIEVING A SETTLEMENT WHICH IS INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE.

7. FINALLY, WE SHOULD USE THE OCCASION TO INVITE MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE TO LONDON TO CARRY ON OUR DISCUSSIONS FOLLOWING OUR MEETING WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. THIS MEETING WITH MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE SHOULD TAKE PLACE EVEN IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AGAIN DEMURED IN A MEETING WITH OWEN AND YOUNG.BOWDLER UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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